Message Text

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P R 242020Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8264 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PGOV CGEN US CI

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF MOFFET/LETELIER CASE

REF: SANTIAGO 1237

- 1. WITH PARTIAL EXCEPTION OF GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA," NEWSPAPERS HERE SEEM TO BE GETTING MESSAGE THAT LETTERS ROGATORY FOR WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL ARE LEGAL MATTER ON WHICH NEITHER WE NOR GOC WILL HAVE MUCH TO SAY IN NEAR FUTURE.
- 2. ALL MORNING PAPERS FEBRUARY 24 REPORTED EMBASSY CONFIRMATION THAT OFFICIAL VISAS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER OF REQUEST FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VALDES, ASKED BY THE PRESS TO COMMENT ON THE EMBASSY STATEMENT, SAID THAT THE GOC WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO SAY FOR THE PRESENT "BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE LEGAL PROCESS THAT IS GOING TO BE INITIATED."
- 3. VALDES WENT ON TO REAFFIRM THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL TRANSMIT THE LETTERS ROGATORY TO THE CHILEAN SUPREME COURT AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE US EMBASSY. HE SAID THAT THE GOC HAS THE GREATEST INTEREST IN SEEING THIS MATTER CLEARED UP, AND HE REFERRED TO A NOTE, DELIVERED BY CAUAS IN WASHINGTON, OFFERING THE FULLEST COOPERATION OF THE GOC ON THIS MATTER.

4. THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS IN "EL CRONISTA."
PICKING UP YESTERDAY'S INNUENDO (PARA 4 REFTEL), THE
FAILURE OF THE PRESS AS YET TO FIND A TRACE OF EITHER
ROMERAL OR WILLIAMS, AND THE COINCIDENCE OF THE HRC DEBATE
ON CHILE IN GENEVA, IT ASKED "WHAT IS BEHIND THIS FLOOD OF
INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY ON SUCH A VAGUE AND CONTRADICTORY
STORY?"
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Message Attributes

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